

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 USSS-00 SY-04 SAM-01 SAJ-01

EURE-00 IO-10 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /074 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0542

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0363

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEACG-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

SUBJECT: BERLIN CDU LEADER KIDNAPPED

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REF: USBERLIN 352

1. SUMMARY: PETER LORENZ, LEADER OF BERLIN CDU, KIDNAPPED FEB 27 IN WELL-PLANNED OPERATION. EVIDENCE INDICATES LEFT-ANARCHISTS RESPONSIBLE. ANONYMOUS CALLERS, PROBABLY CRANKS, CLAIM LORENZ IS SAFE, BUT THREATEN MORE TROUBLE. FEDERAL OFFICIALS VISITING IN BERLIN ARE SAID TO RESTRICT ACTIVITIES TO POLITICAL PARTY ROLE, INCLUDING UNANIMOUS DECISION TODAY TO CANCEL REMAINDER OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN BUT

GO THROUGH WITH MARCH 2 ELECTIONS. ALLIES COOPERATING TO PREVENT ESCAPE OF CULPRITS FROM BERLIN. AIRPORT SECURITY INCREASED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO POLICE REPORTS AT ABOUT 0830 TODAY, FEB 27, RADIO-EQUIPPED RENTAL TRUCK PULLED OUT OF SIDE STREET INTO PATH OF LORENZ'S CAR AS HE WAS LEAVING HOME IN QUIET RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR US HDQTS THIS MORNING. LORENZ CAR STOPPED AND WAS IMMEDIATELY STRUCK FROM REAR BY FIAT. AS CHAUFFEUR WAS INSPECTING DAMAGE, HE WAS STRUCK OVER HEAD AND LEFT LYING IN STREET AS KIDNAPPERS DROVE AWAY WITH LORENZ IN HIS OWN CAR, ACCOMPANIED BY REF FORD. MERCEDES TRUCK AND FIAT WERE LEFT AT SCENE. VARIOUS WITNESSES REPORTED TWO MEN AND ONE WOMAN INVOLVED AND SAW LORENZ'S MERCEDES AND THE FORD ENTERING AVUS AUTOBAHN IN NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION IN BRITISH SECTOR. CARS WERE FOUND ABOUT NOON, ABANDONED IN DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTENBURG AREA. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF LORENZ WHEREABOUTS OR PHYSICAL CONDITION.

3. EVIDENCE INDICATES KIDNAPPING WAS ANOTHER LEFTIST ANARCHIST OPERATION IN PATTERN OF VON DRENKMANN MURDER. LORENZ'S DRIVER HAS IDENTIFIED WOMAN AS ANGELA LUTHER, MEMBER OF JUNE 2 MOVEMENT, A REMNANT OF BADER-MEINHOF GANG. MODUS OPERANDI SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS JUNE 2 AND BAADER-MEINHOF ACTIVITIES; MERCEDES TRUCK WAS RENTED BY PERSON USING IDENTIFICATION CARD REPORTED STOLEN ONE YEAR AGO; IT HAD BEEN WAITING IN LORENZ NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE BEFORE 0800, WHEN LORENZ NORMALLY LEFT HOME BY SAME ROUTE; TRUCK, POLICE BELIEVE, WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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IN RADIO CONTACT WITH OTHERS; AND SIMILAR BUT INNOCENT RED FIAT SOON FOUND IN DOWNTOWN BERLIN WITH SAME LICENSE NUMBER-- A SUBTERFUGE PREVIOUSLY USED BY ANARCHIST CRIMINALS.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO KIDNAPPING, SEVERAL ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS THREATENED MORE TROUBLE AND SAID LORENZ WAS SAFE.

SPRINGER PRESS WAS CALLED TWICE, POSSIBLY BY SAME PERSON, STATING QUOTE KORBER (JUSTICE SENATOR) -- THAT SWINE IS ON TODAY UNQUOTE AND QUOTE SOMETHING MORE WILL HAPPEN TODAY. UNQUOTE MORGENPOST AND CDU HDQTS RECEIVED IDENTICAL CALLS SAYING QUOTE LORENZ IS IN SAFETY. UNQUOTE POLICE RECEIVED A CALL SIMILAR TO THOSE ABOVE BUT THREATENING FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS. ALTHOUGH THEY BELIEVE KIDNAPPERS WILL EVENTUALLY INITIATE CONTACT, POLICE REGARD ALL ABOVE AS CRANK CALLS.

5. SEVERAL FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND PARTY LEADERS ARE IN BERLIN, INCLUDING INTERIOR MINISTER MAIHOFFER, CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL, WILLY BRANDT, AND FONMIN GENSCHER. HAVING IN MIND ALLIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN BERLIN, WE ASKED SENAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL WHAT ROLE THESE PERSONS PLAYING. HE ASSURED MISSION THAT THEY WERE HERE ONLY IN PARTY CAPACITY IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT DECISIONS REGARDING REMAINDER OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

6. MAJOR DECISIONS REACHED AND ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THREE BERLIN PARTIES WERE CANCELLATION OF REMAINDER OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND DECISION TO HOLD ELECTIONS AS SCHEDULED ON MARCH 2. LEADERSHIP OF PARTIES AGREED POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH LEGALLY POSSIBLE, WOULD ONLY SERVE PURPOSES OF KIDNAPPERS. PRELIMINARY SPECULATION AMONG BERLIN POLITICIANS IS THAT DAY'S EVENTS WILL CAUSE SHIFT OF VOTE TO RIGHT WHICH WILL BENEFIT CDU, BUT DOES NOT APPEAR CDU WILL DELIBERATELY CAPITALIZE ON EVENTS BECAUSE LORENZ HIMSELF REPORTEDLY TURNED DOWN OFFER OF POLICE SECURITY AND CDU LAW AND ORDER ADVOCATE SCHMITZ SAID PUBLICLY TODAY THAT HE SAW NO CONFIDENTIAL

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FAULT IN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

7. WE AGREED IMMEDIATELY TO PROVIDE US-OPERATED HELICOPTER FOR USE BY BERLIN POLICE AS OBSERVATION PLATFOR. SECURITY POSTURE AT TEMPELHOF AND TEGEL AIRPORTS HAS BEEN INCREASED. GERMAN POLICE ARE SEARCHING ALL NON-ALLIED VEHICLES LEAVING WESTERN SECTORS. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY KIDNAPPERS MAY ATTEMPT ESCAPE WESTERN SECTORS WITH FORGED ALLIED DOCUMENTS AND LICENSE PLATES, ALL DEPARTING ALLIED FORCES' VEHICLES BEING SEARCHED AT CHECKPOINTS BRAVO AND CHARLIE. ALLIED MILITARY POLICE ALSO CHECKING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF ALL PASSENGERS OF VEHICLES FROM FOUR ALLIED EMBASSIES RETURNING TO EAST BERLIN AT FOUR CROSSING POINTS USED BY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. IN ADDITION, ALLIED MPS ARE

STOPPING SOVIET MILITARY VEHICLES AT SECTOR/SECTOR
CROSSING POINTS AND CHECKING UNIFORMS OF OCCUPANTS.

8. IN SEPARATE BUT PERHAPS RELATED DEVELOPMENT, POLICE
INFORMED US ANARCHISTS RAINER HOCHSTEIN AND WIFE, BOTH
SUBJECTS OF BREMEN ARREST WARRANTS, HAD BEEN ARRESTED
YESTERDAY IN HAMBURG AND HAD IMPLICATED JUNE 2
MEMBERS RALF REINDERS AND INGE VIETT IN MURDER OF
VON DRENKMANN. HOCHSTEIN REPORTEDLY CLAIMED REINDERS
FIRED THE FATAL SHOTS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO EVALUATE
IMPORTANCE OF THIS INFO, WHICH IS FIRST INDICATION OF
INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED, BUT COMBINED WITH LORENZ KIDNAPPING
COULD PRECIPITATE NATIONWIDE MANHUNT FOR ANARCHISTS.

9. EAST GERMAN NEWS SERVICE ADN HAS REPORTED THAT
GDR COOPERATING WITH SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPERS. WEST
BERLIN AUTHORITIES REPLIED TO PRESS INQUIRIES THAT
THERE HAD BEEN NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH GDR AUTHORITIES
BUT ANY HELP WAS WELCOME.

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Message Attributes

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